

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the June 10, 2005 Notice of Allowance that the claims recite patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. By the present amendment under 37 CFR 1.312, Applicants respectfully request the amendment to claim 11 be entered and approved. The amendment to claim 11 corrects a drafting oversight found while reviewing the allowed claims. The resulting language conforms to the recitation in claim 9 of "an optical pre-amplifier started in the automatic level control mode when it is started" (claim 9, line 4). The proposed amendment requires no additional search or examination because the change is merely a formality.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered and approved. It is submitted that claims 1-20 remain in a condition suitable for allowance.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9/12/05

By: Richard A. Gollhofer
Richard A. Gollhofer
Registration No. 31,106

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501